

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (cancelled)

Claim 10. (new) A device for opening and closing a hood of a trunk provided on a folding-top convertible vehicle comprising a bodywork, a foldable roof, the trunk, and said hood thereof, the trunk having a bottom, the device including:

- controlling means for controlling a first opening of the hood in a forward direction to store luggage in the trunk and a second opening of said hood in an opposite backward direction to pass and store a folded roof in the trunk,

- a main jack operated for controlling said first and second openings, said main jack having a base which is articulated on a part of the bodywork adjacent to the bottom of the trunk, and a rod having an end fixed to said hood,

- a balancing jack adapted to facilitate a manually-operated opening of the hood in the forward direction and a manually-operated closing of the hood in the opposite backward direction, the balancing jack having a base connected to the main jack and a rod having an end articulated on the hood, the balancing jack being arranged to prevent interference with operation of the main jack for automatically opening and closing the hood,

- balancing jack inactivation means for making the balancing jack inactive so as to authorize automatic opening or closing of the hood, and

- balancing jack activation means for making the balancing jack active so as to authorize manual opening or closing of the hood.

Claim 11. (new) The device of claim 10, further comprising an intermediate member having a substantially S shape, a lower end fixed in an articulated manner to the base of the balancing jack, and a top end articulated on said end of the rod of the main jack.

Claim 12. (new) The device of claim 11, further comprising locking means for detachably fixing the top end of the intermediate member to the hood, and displacing means for displacing said locking means so that the top end of the intermediate member is released from the hood.

Claim 13. (new) The device of claim 12, wherein:

- the hood is provided with a hook pivotally installed on the hood,
- the top end of the intermediate member is provided with a latch, and
- the hook is adapted to engage said latch to fix the top end of the intermediate member to the hood.

Claim 14. (new) The device of claim 13, wherein the hook has a part which is shaped so that it can be pushed by the latch when the hood is being closed, and the hook is adapted to engage the latch when said hood is closed.

Claim 15. (new) The device of claim 14, wherein the hook is arranged so as to pivot about a first pin with respect to the hood, and the latch comprises a second pin parallel to the first

pin, and a spring being arranged to permanently urge the hook in the closing direction of the hook.

Claim 16. (new) The device of claim 13, wherein the hood comprises pivoting means for pivoting the hook in order to release said hook from a position engaged with the latch.

Claim 17. (new) The device of claim 13, wherein the hood comprises a cable having a first end fixed to the hook and a second end fixed to a control element supported by the hood, for pivoting the hook in order to engage said hook with said latch or to release said hook from said engagement.

Claim 18. (new) The device of claim 10, wherein the hood has a front edge and a back edge which are both connected to the bodywork of the vehicle by means of respective front locks and back locks, each having the function of locking and articulating the hood such that said hood is adapted to be opened in either the backward direction or the forward direction.

Claim 19. (new) A folding-top convertible vehicle, comprising a folding-top, a trunk, a trunk hood, a bodywork, and a device for opening and closing said trunk hood, the device including:

- controlling means for controlling a first opening of the hood in a forward direction to store luggage in the trunk and a second opening of said hood in an opposite backward direction to pass and store a folded roof in the trunk,

- a main jack operated for controlling said first and second openings, said main jack having a base which is articulated on a part of the bodywork adjacent to a bottom of the trunk, and a rod having an end fixed to said hood,

- a balancing jack adapted to facilitate a manually-operated opening of the hood in the forward direction and a manually-operated closing of the hood in the opposite backward direction, the balancing jack having a base connected to the main jack and a rod having an end articulated on the hood, the balancing jack being arranged to prevent interference with operation of the main jack for automatically opening and closing the hood,

- balancing jack inactivation means for making the balancing jack inactive so as to authorize automatic opening or closing of the hood, and

- balancing jack activation means for making the balancing jack active so as to authorize manual opening or closing of the hood.

Claim 20. (new) The vehicle of claim 19, further comprising an intermediate member having a substantially S shape, a lower end fixed in an articulated manner to the base of the balancing jack, and a top end articulated on said end of the rod of the main jack.

Claim 21. (new) The vehicle of claim 20, further comprising locking means for detachably fixing the top end of the intermediate member to the hood, and displacing means for displacing said locking means so that the top end of the intermediate member is released from the hood.

Claim 22. (new) The vehicle of claim 21, wherein:

- the hood is provided with a hook pivotally installed on the hood,

- the top end of the intermediate member is provided with a latch, and

- the hook engages said latch to fix the top end of the intermediate member to the hood.

Claim 23. (new) The vehicle of claim 22, wherein the hook has a part which is shaped so that it can be pushed by the latch when the hood is closing, and the hook is adapted to automatically engage the latch when the hood is closing.

Claim 24. (new) The vehicle of claim 23, wherein the hook is arranged so as to pivot about a first pin with respect to the hood, and the latch comprises a second pin parallel to the first pin, and a spring being arranged to permanently urge the hook in the closing direction of the hook.

Claim 25. (new) The vehicle of claim 22, wherein the hood comprises pivoting means for pivoting the hook in order to release said hook from a position engaged with the latch.

Claim 26. (new) The vehicle of claim 22, wherein the hood comprises a cable having a first end fixed to the hook and a second end fixed to a control element supported by the hood, pivoting the hook in order to engage said hook with said latch or to be released from said engagement.

Claim 27. (new) The vehicle of claim 19, wherein the hood has a front edge and a back edge which are both connected to the bodywork of the vehicle by means of respective front locks and back locks, each having the function of locking and articulating the hood such that said hood is adapted to be opened in either the backward direction or the forward direction.